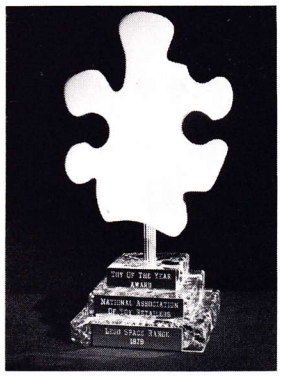
The LEGO® Builders Club

Bricks 'n Pieces

A newsletter for LEGO® Club members — Spring 1980

Top Prize for LEGO®—again!



Toy of the Year Award
This is the splendid award won by LEGO in 1979. It is a jig-saw shape in solid white marble mounted on a granite base and valued at £600!

Every year Britain's toy retailers vote for the toy they consider to be the 'Toy of the Year'. As many of you will have seen on the 'Nationwide' TV programme before Christmas, they voted the LEGOLAND Space range the best toy of 1979.

This was the third time LEGO sets won this valuable award in the 1970's. On top of that we were also presented in 1977 with a special Golden Award by the toy retailers for 'outstanding services to the toy trade' which was only the second time that such an award has been given.

Naturally we are very proud to have received so many fine awards but perhaps Club members will not be surprised. After all, what makes a toy shop vote for a particular toy is that more people have bought that toy than any other. So it was you, the LEGO collectors, who really won those awards for us and we would like to say "thank you very much" to you all.

Talking of the LEGOLAND Space Sets, we know that many of you were disappointed at not being able to find the sets you wanted because the shops sold out due to the fantastic demand. You will be pleased to know that during 1980 we will *double* the number of sets in the shops. Whether even that will be enough who can say? But at least twice as many collectors will be able to get the models they want and we hope there will be enough for everyone.

Club Trip to LEGOLAND®

In the last Newsletter of 1979 we suggested that members might like to go on an organised trip to the fabulous LEGOLAND Leisure Park in Billund, Denmark.

We asked those who were interested to send back a postcard saying how many in their family would like to go.

And they came flooding in! 7,600 people said they'd like to go.

Unfortunately it proved impossible to charter a cruise ship so we had to fall back on aeroplanes making one-day flights in May at £75 per head. But even 'planes are mostly booked up so it looks as though we will not be able to take even 2,000 of the 7,600 who said they were interested.

It was only fair to offer seats first to those who sent back postcards which means that it is unlikely we will have any spare seats for new members. But if you would specially like to go and would like to put your name on a waiting list just in case we have a few spare seats please ask your mum or dad to send a *postcard only* to Air London, 23 Station Approach, Hayes, Bromley Kent BR2 7EQ. Just head it 'LEGOLAND Waiting List' note the number of seats you would like, and print your name and address and telephone number clearly. Nothing else is necessary and no money should be sent.

Air London will keep these cards in the order in which they are received and will contact you to offer a flight date should they have any vacancies or if additional flights can be arranged in September.

IDEAS IDEAS IDEAS

The new LEGOLAND Ideas Book costing around £1 has 84 pages packed with ideas for all sorts of models and is in the shops now.

Expert builders should look out too for the Technical Ideas Book No. 8888 which should be in the shops by the Autumn.

Dear Members,

In January membership of the Club passed the 25,000 mark and is still growing fast, which is very exciting.

Many children write and ask how they can join so we have included in this Newsletter 2 application forms which you can pass on to any friends who would like to become members. There is also an entry form on the back of the 1980 leaflet enclosed, so you could recruit three friends if you like!

We hope you will find some exciting new models in the leaflet, like the super new Advanced Basic Sets for example or the new Technical Set Car Chassis No. 8860. This now has a differential gear, independent suspension on the rear wheels and the seats recline, as well as being adjustable! Both will be reaching the shops in the Summer.

Less dramatic but just as interesting to real enthusiasts is the new range of Supplementary boxes shown opposite the Advanced Basic Sets. These now offer a total of 118 different components and colours compared to only 64 in the old range, not counting all the pieces available in the Technical Supplementaries shown at the end of the leaflet.

This means you can more easily get those extra pieces you need for the models you are working on and so get even more satisfaction from your LEGO building.

Have fun!

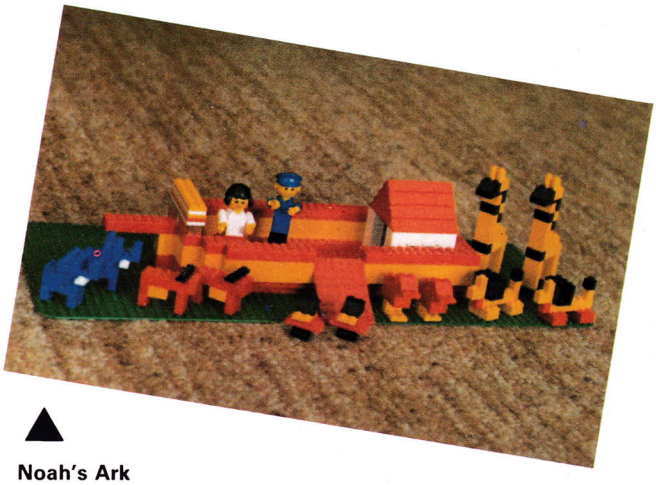
Yours sincerely,
CLIVE NICHOLLS
Club President

LEGO Pen Friend Wanted

Paul Mayhew writes to say he is a fan of LEGO who is also interested in aircraft. He says he'd like a pen friend who shares his interests.

If you would like a pen friend why not write to him and tell him about yourself.

His address is 150 Whittington Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.



Noah's Ark

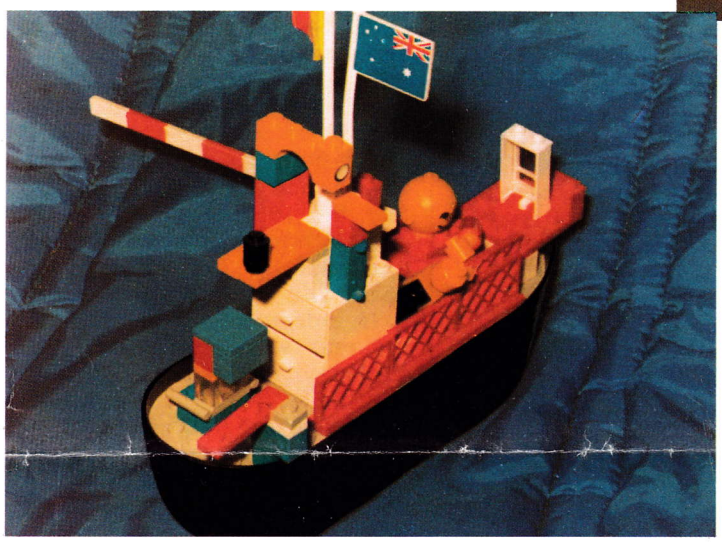
Here is another marvellous example to show you don't have to have a big collection of LEGO to win a Master Builders Badge. Although so tiny, the animals are easily identifiable. Lisa Judlins of Norwich built it and we think she is very clever.

Granny in Plaster

When the granny of 6 year old Richard Moss, of Richmond broke her leg her grandson presented her with this amusing model as a keepsake.

MASTER
AWAR

A "golden" Master Builder Badg to each of the members whose are shown here. If you h photograph of a special model, in and you too could become a Builder if your model is shown next issue of *Bricks 'n Pieces.*

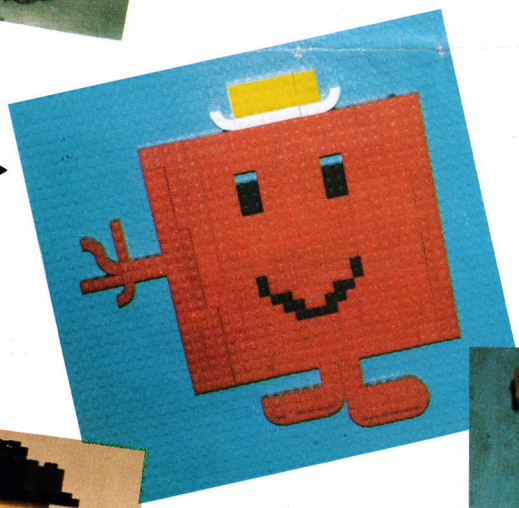


A Ship to Sail to LEGOLAND In

That is the title which Nicolas Ratsey of London gives to this delightful model. Nicolas is only 3 years and 9 months old which is fantastic.

Mum's Cooker

Sunsan Munro of Montrose not only sent this photo but also a detailed drawing of her model so that we could see how realistically detailed it was because the photograph did not do it justice.

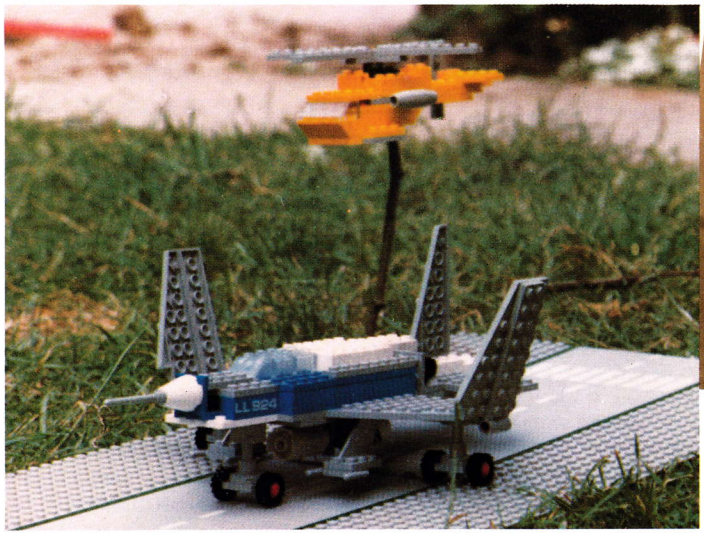


Mr. Strong

Peter Blyth of Wendover is only 6 but he's got a keen eye for the Mr. Men figures. This mosaic is beautifully realised.

Phantom

This is a model of a Phantom with its wings folded on the deck of an aircraft carrier. A rescue helicopter hovers overhead. A nicely worked out model by Alexander Jones of Maidenhead.



Beefeater

Andrew Knight of Plymouth has built a model which even LEGO's own model designer, David Lyall, would have been proud to have made. Congratulations Andrew!

Sheriff

Andrew White of Hinckley has built a sheriff complete with pistols, gold badge—and a kindly expression on his face. You can't believe this sheriff would be nasty enough to actually shoot anyone!

Penalty Kick

Models of footballers are not unusual but Colin McDonald (10) from Hamilton has built one who actually kicks the ball—and then the goalkeeper saves it!

'Take me to your Leader'

Justin Seton-Browne (10) from Thirsk is pictured here on his return from inter-galactic adventures. He has supplied full details of the working of his multi laser gun but they are much too secret to publish!

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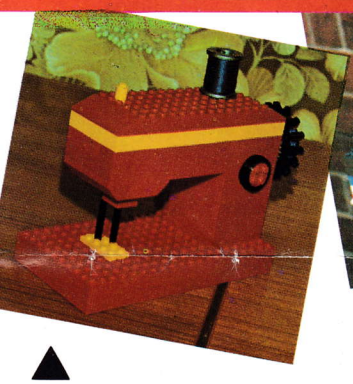


Sewing Machine

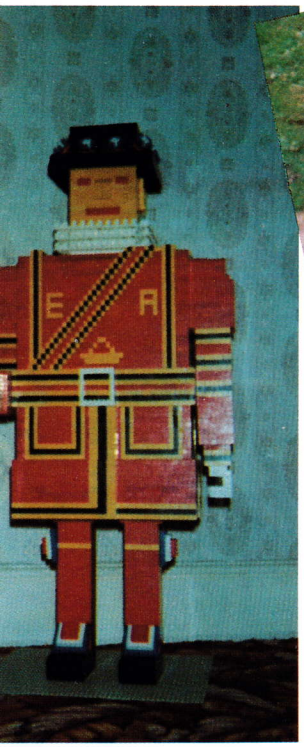
Robin Houghton of Harpenden sends this picture of a fully motorised sewing machine.

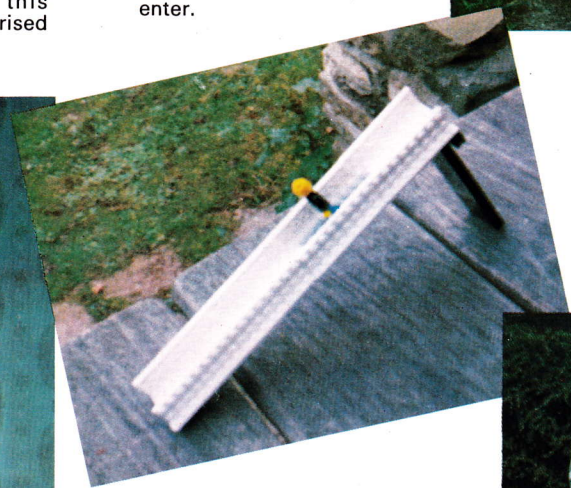
Amazing!

Timothy Collins (8) of Leeds built this intriguing maze complete with cash desk where you pay to enter.

Open Tourer

Richard Fley (12) of Beaconsfield has an 853 car chassis set but then designed his own bodywork to fit on it. The result is this dashing touring car—the sort of car we all dream of driving!





Winter Olympics

Once again, a tiny model shows how an idea from life can be interpreted with just a few bricks. Richard Baird of Bristol built it after watching the Olympics on TV.

Mower

Roderick Thorpe (8) of Sutton had an original idea for a model and then went ahead and built it beautifully. It is even motor powered, just like a real one.

"USEFUL OBJECTS" WINNERS

Our thanks to all of you who sent in ideas for our Useful Objects competition. You remember the idea was to build something which could actually be used. And what amazing things you built! There were lots of letter racks, piggy banks, bedside lamps, even a sketch for a Bricks & Pieces rack which was a nice idea.

There was also an idea for a very attractive candlestick but this might be dangerous, for if the candle was allowed to burn right down it could burn the LEGO bricks so that is not an idea to copy!

Perhaps the two most unusual were a machine for measuring 00 track on a model railway and another for a football rattle, but we could not reproduce the drawings satisfactorily.

First prize, over 9
(a) **Pencil Holder** A very stylish design by Trevor Newsam (13) of Marlow.

First prize, under 9
(b) **Decay Destroyer** A witty title for a useful object by Michael Priest (8) of High Wycombe.

Runners-up
(c) **Kitchen Scales** Patrick Biggs of Leatherhead says there are 99 pieces in this simple-looking model.

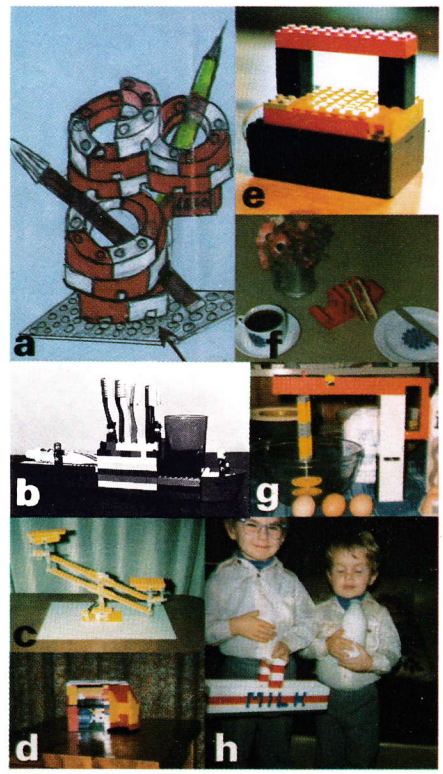
(d) **Hamster House** Charles Bern (7) of Kenilworth built this complete with steps, revolving wheel and air holes.

(e) **Flashlight** David Murray (7) of Insch says this is great for "reading in bed after lights out". It uses a LEGO lighting brick for a bulb.

(f) **Toast Rack** Thomas Smith (8) of London sent this nice little picture of his toast rack actually in use on the breakfast table.

(g) **Egg Beater** Adam Flint of Chichester says that his egg beater not only works, but is adjustable and that the beaters can be removed for washing. Very neat!

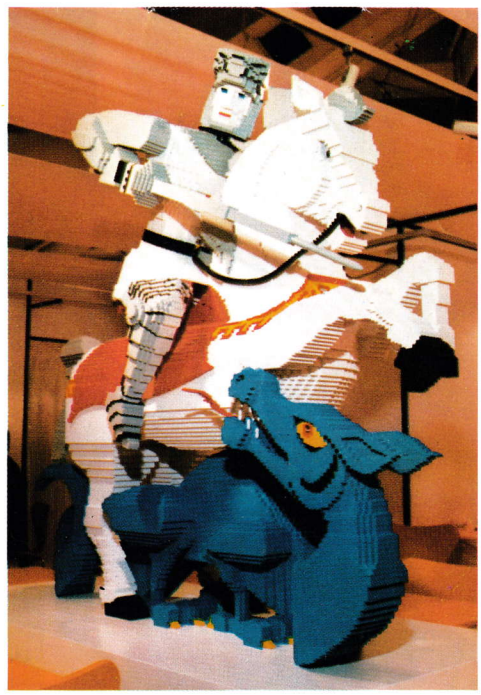
(h) Special mention for Benjamin Morgan of Newport for this very nicely designed **Milk Carrier.** But we fear that if young brother Daniel actually put that milk bottle in it, the whole thing would collapse. Is that why he seems to be saying a quick prayer?



COSY CORNER

Here is another of designer David Lyall's masterpieces which we thought you'd like to see. Everything in the picture except the curtain and potted plant are built of LEGO. But no, this is not David Lyall's entry in our Useful Object competition for you could not play the violin and it would be a bit risky to sit in the chair even though it is life size.
David calls this display 'Soiree Musicale' which is French for Musical Evening. It suggests a quiet family evening making music by the lamp light, as people used to do before we had TV!
Perhaps we ought to run a competition called 'Can you think of something you CAN'T build with LEGO bricks'!

COMPETITION CORNER



Here is a picture of the fantastic St. George and the Dragon model built by our designer David Lyall. It is *huge!* It stands over 1½ metres high and uses over 50,000 bricks. Now of course you could not possibly build anything as enormous as that, but just how good a model of St. George and the Dragon can you build?
There is a big LEGO set prize for the best model from a member over 9 years and under 9 years. BUT DO NOT COPY DAVID LYALL'S MODEL. Look at picture books to get some ideas of how *you* see St. George in his battle with the terrible dragon. And remember, the winning models could be quite tiny. Imagination is more important than size. Entries in by 30th June please so that we can show the winning model in the Summer edition of Bricks 'n Pieces.